

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Survey # AA 917

Henderson House
3200 Bruce Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

C. 1903

Private Residence

Highland Beach, Maryland is a private summer community founded by Charles R. Douglass. It was designed to be a community for prominent black Americans in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Each house in Highland Beach is a design element contributing to a novel experiment in town planning. Although, each house can stand alone as a significant architectural piece within this context, it is the total conception of the community plan which is really fascinating about Highland Beach.

The Henderson House is a unique example of the quality of design and construction in the community. It is both a one and one half storey cottage as well as an element in the total landscape of black town planning. It is a unique statement of individualism and exhibits a conception of freedom and creativity during an era of overt racial hostility and oppression.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Henderson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER
3200 Bruce Ave.CITY, TOWN
Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Annapolis

STATE
MarylandCOUNTY
Anne Arundel**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME
Annemarie
Edwin M. Henderson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
29 Woodward CtCITY, TOWN
Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 2936 L2936

Folio #: 371 F369

STREET & NUMBER
Anne Arundel County CourthouseCITY, TOWN
Annapolis, MD

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-817

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henderson House is a Gambrel roofed cottage, one and one-half storeys high. It has an enclosed rear porch and a "front" porch which is sheltered by a shed roof. The shed roof is supported by stick posts which are decorated by wooden, lattice work screening. There is a mixture of casement and double hung windows on the house and the pink, wooden shutters are functional appointment attached to the plain window trim.

The Henderson House is located in the resort community of Highland Beach, Maryland which is approximately ten miles south east of Annapolis. The lot is bounded by Black Walnut Creek towards the northeast, Bruce Avenue on the eastern most side, Bay Avenue to the South and Walnut Avenue to the West. The lot is large and slopes towards Black Walnut Creek where there is a substantial drop off into a marshy area before the creek. There are three piers extending from the bank of the site into the water. This frame gambrel roofed cottage with the sloped gambrel view extended into a hipped roof is an atypical house in the town. The low, pier foundation is composed of cement blocks and is sheathed alternately with wooden lattice work and novelty shingles.

The south elevation which forces a vacant lot on Bay Avenue and Bruce Avenue is graced by a three bay porch supported by wooden posts. The structural elements use typical post and beam with bracing supporting the shed roof over the porch. However, the continuation of the lattice work that surrounds the pier foundation is displayed as a decorative element defining the bays of the porch. This is an exceptional architectural feature because the color (salmon or pink) is French Colonial inspired.

The windows on the first storey are six over six, double hung or casement type with decorative shutters. The facade is finished with grey siding that imitates a clapboard or beveled exterior. The second or half storey of the south elevation is complimented with a flat roofed dormer recessed into the slope of the roof. Again, the salmon colored shutters are located on the sash windows in this tiny space. The end near the west elevation is not level with the east view. Double, four paned windows have been located here contributing to a blanced view of the first storey extension of the central floor plan.

The east elevation continues the utilization of decorative shutters, but the windows are newer, four paved elements placed symmetrically and surrounding the side entrance. The canopy over the door is also salmon colored and conflicts with the aluminum railing which extends down the four user stair case. The north elevation, or "rear" of the cottage is graced with an extending screened porch which overlooks Black Walnut Creek.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(see "Highland Beach Settlement")

This cottage is one of the first houses built on the settlement. The exact date of construction is not known. Most of the residents built their houses over several years with the assistance of family and friends.

The Highland Beach settlement is a private resort/summer community which was planned for and occupied by prominent African-Americans. It is a surviving example of town planning and maybe one of the oldest extant communities of this quality in the mid-Atlantic region. All of the property in Highland Beach was owned by the son of Frederick Douglass in 1894. The Hendersons acquired their lot in 1903 from Charles R. Douglass, and the house has been in the family since that date.

The historical significance of the house rests less with the prominence of the Henderson family with respect to Washington, D.C. black social-cultural history, however, it is a unequal statement regarding black town planning in Maryland. Highland Beach is a planned community with unselfconscious design elements that have been exhibited in several structures. This house is atypical and independent of that theme and yet, in its isolation, it contributes to the functional development of the town and the socio-spatial conception of design by blacks in an era of segregation and racial hostility.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-817

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lt. 2 Sec 7 Highland Beach

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

April 1982

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

301-444-3225

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

21239

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Edwin M.Henderson
3200 Bruce

AA-817

Charles R. Douglass

To Deed 6/6/03 WNW 48 500

Edwin B Henderson & Mary

To Deed 8/1/28 FSR 28 417

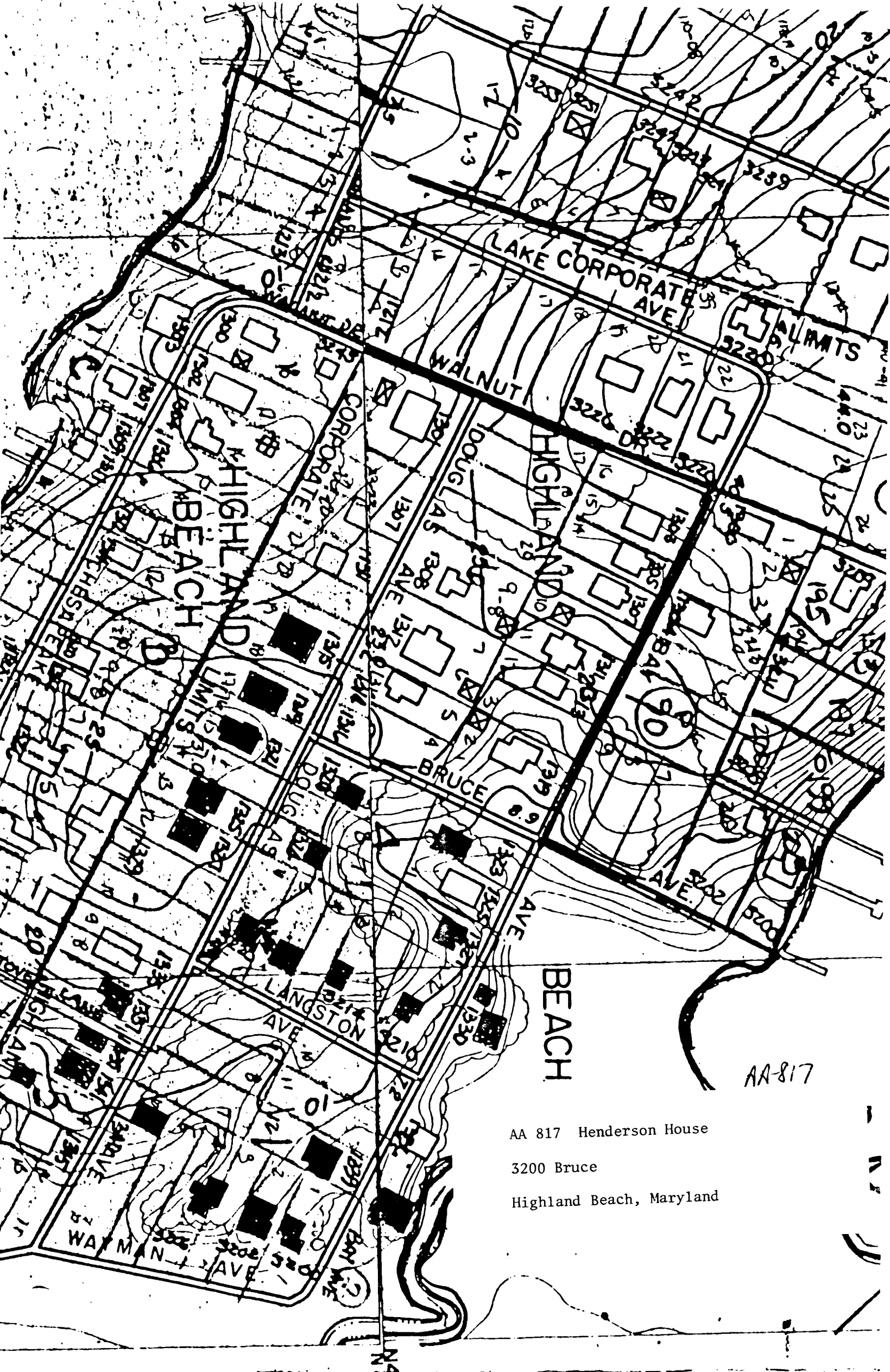
Cato W. Adams

To Deed 8/13/28 FSR 38 371

Edwin B. Henderson & Mary

To Deed 1/11/77 L 2936 371

Edwin M Henderson & Ann marie



AA-817

AA 817 Henderson House
3200 Bruce
Highland Beach, Maryland



AA 817 Henderson House
General View
Highland Beach, Maryland
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March, 1982